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Arranged

An Essay
on
Dysenteria

Respectfully submitted to the
Faculty
of the
Homeopathic Medical College
of
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One thousand Eight hundred and Fifty Seven
By

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of
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Dysentery

Dysentery is generally understood to be a diseased condition of the large intestine, indicated by frequent evacuations from the bowels, accompanied with colic, pain, tenesmus, and general febrile affections. But when we consider the range of inflammation caused by dysentery, we cannot say with propriety that this disease can be strictly confined to the large intestines. For every circumstance indicates that the Epidemic like the coanthematus and typhous process is a disease from the intermission of the blood occurring through the reception or development of a morbid poison of the blood and localizing itself upon the large intestine in the form of an irritant. Some writers have labored hard to prove that dysentery was not a peculiar disease of itself.

but is a Typhus, a Chlorosis, a Rheumatism
which fixes its focus upon the Colon and rectum
and thus forms a colic Typhus, a colo. Chlorosis
&c. But we are of the opinion that dysentery
should be considered the local expression
of a morbid poison which may vary with
its origin and characteristics.

A large proportion of cases occur from some
earthly poison and should be considered
as having a malarious origin. And
it thus appears in connection with -
Typhus, and is observed to be more common
in marshy regions in Summer and Autumn.

Anatomical Character

As we have stated before the principle seat
of Dysentery is the large intestines, but
the seat in regard to its point of concen-
tration and termination is the mucous

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membrane of the largest intestines.
and the principle changes are found from
the cecum to the rectum, but the affection
is not confined to this portion of the intestine
or its mucous membrane. These pathological
changes often pass beyond the cecum to the
small intestine stomach. Liver anæmia.
The disease sometimes affects the sub-
mucous tissue. muscular coat and even
reaches the peritoneal coat. After the
inflammation attacks the mucous mem-
brane. The epithelium is elevated in
small vesicles and is cast off in small
patches so that the membrane lying
underneath looks excoriated.

Dr Cheyne observes that the small intes-
tines are affected and also the mucous
membrane of the stomach. in proportion

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as the large intestines were diseased.
Ulceration generally shows itself in the
colon and in the first instance the cecum
but in this part it is superficial, as the
bowel was traced down towards the colon
the ulceration became deeper and more
extensive. sometimes there are four or
five inches of rectum perfectly sound to all
appearance. In cases where death has occurred
in the early stage of the disease from
violent fibrile action or some other cause
the stomach and small intestines have
been found very much inflamed, of a
dusky red or purple color, soft and pulpy
with uneven surface and sometimes gran-
ulated. In some cases the liver is very much
affected and dissection has proved that it
is sometimes ulcerated.

Sometimes there is thickening of the intestinal wall - caused by a serious infiltration into the sub-mucous cellular tissue.
and penetrating by degrees into the muscular.

Causes which set Dysentery

It is well understood that dysentery is far more frequent in the summer and fall months than at any other seasons of the year. The animal from at this season of the year is much debilitated from having been exposed for a long time to the stimulus of a hot atmospherical temperature and in many cases that of the direct rays of the sun. The digestive organs and intestinal canal necessarily partaking more or less of this debility are easily irritated and thrown out of order than

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at any other season of the year.

The causes that produce Spasms may be
of two kinds. Direct-and-irritative.

The direct are chiefly those of cold, and may
consist of any sudden application of cold
to the stomach below its actual tempera-
ture such as drinking cold water and
eating ice cream when the system is
in a very heated condition, eating flat-
ulent herbs or acids fruits when the
stomach is too weak to digest them.

Drinking impure water especially mud
as consists of decomposed animal or
vegetable substances. In this last
case the disease is often endemic, of which
we have a striking example while the
soldiers were stationed in the barracks at
Cawnpore, while the disease was raving with

It was observed that the troops were affected with water contaminated by an influx from the public rivers and undiluted drunk it by an intermission with the others. Their beverage was immediately changed and the disease suddenly disappeared.

The sympathetic causes are those which operate upon the intestines through the medium of other organs. Chiefly those of the skin and lungs. as exposed to cold drafts of air when the body is heated, not clothe this and wet-felt, producing thereby first a sudden transition from heat to cold causing the blood to return to the internal organs. and being there in larger quantities than usual get up irritation and inflammation as the result-

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And as the intestines are often in a watery condition especially the impurities in water. so they are by the impurities or animalcule that are floating so commonly in the air. in miasmatic regions and hence this disease assuming an Epidemic as in the former an Endemic form.

Dysentery

This disease may occur with or without any forewarning symptoms. in the former case there is general uneasiness in the abdomen especially in the lower portion of the colon with a bearing down sensation. general weakness and loss of appetite. These symptoms may be accompanied with diarrhea or constipation. Sometimes the local symptoms

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make their appearance before the general ones and in some mild cases it may run its course without fever or any pain. Sometimes the local and general symptoms make their appearance at the same moment. The patient experiencing a chill at the same time he has pain and sometimes when the pain subsides for sometime the dangerous state of the intestines the diarrhoea is one dependent upon some other cause. In different cases of diarrhoea or rather dysentery we have a regular gradation of severity from a very slight effect of a small part of the rectum and colon with slight fever passing off in a few days up to an epidemic severity of the disease through the whole intestines and ever attacking

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The liver and spleen until it becomes one of the most fatal diseases that the human flesh is heir to. But the extent of the disease is measured by the susceptibility of the patient and the degree that it is simple or complicated. Generally, more severe inflammation is a ~~mitte~~ of the maladies, is a mild affection, but it is often associated with some other diseased organs or morbid condition of the system generally, which has a tendency to complicate the disease and render it more fatal.

Simple Sympathy

In the commencement of this disease we have generally gripping pains in the abdomen which are not regular in their occurrence or position and followed by a discharge

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from the bowels which gives the patient
relief. In a short period after the evacuation
there is a sense of weight in the abdomen
with a desire to go to stool accompanied
with a sense of heat and burning, but
when they go to stool are unable to dislodge
any thing but of mucus and sometimes
mucus streaked with blood. This severe
pain that is experienced by the patient is caus-
ed by the fecal matter passing over that
of the rectum which has been made very
sensitive by irritation and inflamma-
tion. As the disease advances tenesmus
is the most prominent symptom. The
calls for stool are more frequent and
tenesmus so severe that the straining
sometimes produces prolapse and
especially in children.

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The discharge is seldom less than ten or twelve in twenty four hours, in a very mild form of the disease. but sometimes, in many cases the amount is from one to three hundred rods. After a few evacuations which are more copious, the discharge consists of a whitish mucus which is sometimes streaked with blood. and sometimes the discharges consist of almost pure blood caused by the erosion of some blood vessels with them as the disease advances or little shreds of membrane and sometimes the membrane is seen in little patches. In some cases there ~~is~~ ^{are} or less headache are more or less hardened lumps of flesh called *Syphaces* formed by the spasmodic contraction which often runs through the intestines. fecal evacuations are

are generally followed with some relief.
At first the evacuations have a little smell
but after a little while they acquire an
odor which seems to be peculiar to dysen-
tery. In all cases of dysentery there is more
or less fever, pulse quick and full, skin hot
and dry, insufficent quantity of urine
tongue moist and coated with a whitish
mucus or fur. Sometimes the impressions
made upon the nervous system (in cases of violent)
is so great that it is with great difficulty
that the patient has an able to rest.

In sever cases there is a sensation of
hollowness in the abdomen, attended
with cold clammy skin, fable thready like
pulse, and sometimes nausea and vomit-
ing. This stage of the disease generally
passes off, and the disease terminates

favorably for the patient is eight or ten days.
There are some cases that the inflammation
is to such an extent and the shock
to the nervous system so great that
it will not react. In this case the patient
has from the beginning a very feeble pulse
and also frequent & cold clammy skin.

The features express great anxiety, count-
enance sunken, purple hue around the
eyes, at the ends of the fingers and nails, and
upon the lips. In this stage of the disease
the eruptions are very frequent and
accompanies with great tenorousness. The
abdomen is tumefied and very tense
and very susceptible to pressure.

Such cases generally prove fatal in a few
days after they have arrived to this stage.
Simple ordinary cures not improve in

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Ten or twelve days there is danger
of the disease assuming a more
dangerous form. all the symptoms
becoming changed or aggravated. the
tongue assume a dry'st appearance
throws off its fur and is smooth
and sometimes gashed. When dysentery
terminates favorably the pains generally
diminish in their severity and the
interval between their occurrence is
lengthened. the stools are more
profuse but less frequent and possess
more of a fecal character. and finally
nothing remains except a slight diarrhoea
which passes off in a few days.

Catarrhal form

This form of dysentery has usually a short
precursory stage. the fever generally slight.

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and not unfrequently entirely vanishing
after the disease has become local.

This form of the disease is not contagious
the functions of the skin and kidneys
are not much interfered with.

The pain in the abdomen is of a colic
nature. The abdomen is warm soft
and not very sensitive to pressure.

The evacuations are partially coloed
with bile. foeculent streaks or mixed with
blood. There is slight tenesmus this
form of the disease continues generally from
eight to twelve days and terminates
in health.

Inflammatory Stage

This stage is known from the commence-
ment by a severe chill which sometimes
continues for many hours. And then is

followed by fever heat. The dysentery commences with great fury. Soon there are developed signs of abdominal inflammation. The flux in the bowels is continuous and increasing in severity. The abdomen is very sensitive to pressure. Attacks very severe. sometimes in the commencement of this disease there is a large quantity of blood discharged which relieves the patient. Sometimes the stool contains membranous masses. at this stage of the disease there is frequently cramp in the bladder and calf of the legs. Inflammation in this case may not be confined to the large intestines but frequently extends to the liver and spleen. The pulse is full frequent but sometimes suppressed. Tongue red and rough.

Sometimes covered with a white coat - In this stage of the disease the thirst is very great, face red eyes more or less injected, man has a moist east - skin hot and dry - The length of the disease is from fourteen to twenty one days - In unfavorable cases the stools have a cadaverous smell, and pass off involuntarily. Delirium sinking pulse tongue becomes dry - Inflammation of rectum may terminate in gangrene or ulceration amounting to perforation.

A dynamic form

In this form of the disease the whole system is deeply affected. There is headache vertigo and great prostration, often before the invasion of the peculiar dysenteric symptoms there is a violent chill, a sensation as though

cold water was being poured over the back
and generally the diarrhoea is preceded by
these symptoms. The acute stage is distin-
guished by the great number of stools.
The discharges are of a brownish and sometimes
of a blackish color they possess a very bad
odor which is similar to a putrefactive
smell. These evacuations are so acrid
that they excoriate the parts about the
anus. The fever that accompanies this is
of a torpid character. The pulse is small
skin hot and dry at times but most
generally cold especially the extremities
the features have a sunken appearance.
The tongue dry cold & dark brown,
sometimes there is a rust upon the skin
towards the close of the disease. There is violent
hiccough and vomiting of a dark substance.

involuntary diarrhoea and often bleeding
from the bowels. This form of the disease pro-
cesses fatal in from ten to fourteen days.

Bilious Dysentery

In dysentery of this kind a bilious ex-
cretion of the system generally precedes the
dysentery. There is frequently discharge by
vomiting and by stool bilious matter
yellow green or dark green fruit
which relieves the patient. This form of dysen-
tery is often complicated with inflammation
of the liver which sometimes terminates in
abscess. The crisis of this disease often occurs
with a discharge of fecal matter and a
pusulous eruption upon the face, around
the mouth and nose.

if very few moments. The stomach
should be half warm. Every thing should

Treatment

It is essential that the patient should be placed in a room that can be well ventilated so that the patient may have a sufficient amount of fresh air - great care should be taken to prevent as far as possible the accumulation of any effluvia or miasm. This is of as much importance for the welfare of the patient - as for the safety of the ~~nurse~~ attendant great care should be taken about the cleanliness of the bed. The discharges should not be allowed to remain in the room but removed immediately. A burlap should be used for the evacuations, and not allow the patient to get up as he will be exposed to cold air and also weakened by getting up every few moments. The extremities should be kept warm - Every thing should

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be withheld from the stomach that is of an irritating character. cold water should not be allowed as it at once excites the spasms.

but its place may be supplied with water that has been boiled and cooled again or mucilaginous drinks such as rice water, barley water, oatmeal gruel &c. Milk, porridge of well coagulated milk and flour is very good. The white of an egg beaten in water is also very good.

In the appearance of this Epidemic disease it is the duty of every Physician to study thoroughly its epidemic characters and then with careful judgment select such remedies as shall be important to combat the disease in all its forms.

Strong drink and foodless, when all
Medicines fail us about the time length
do not fail

Medicines

Aconite - Should be given in the first commencement of the disease, and when there is high inflammatory fever, quick pulse and full pulse. Hot dry skin, colic pains and tenesmus frequent small stools and tenesmus.

Aloes - by repeated trials this remedy has proved itself to be one of considerable importance in some cases of dysentery, when the abdomen is distended and very susceptible to touch violent pressing and much burning pains along the course of the rectum or colon -

Frequent strong evacuations mixed with blood and attended with violent tenesmus. Heat and faintness when at stool, especially about the anus tongue dry and red

Chamomilla - This remedy is useful when the disease has arisen from exposure to cold atmosphere when in a state of perspiration. When we find faint tongue with better taste is the mucus and bilious stools before times, mucus makes no appearance. This remedy is best in the first stages of dysentery.

Coffeum - - - -
This remedy is valuable when we have frequent small bloody or mucous stools with tenesmus. A large following of gas. Thirst and if drinking is allowed there is a chill. severe colicy pain in the umbilical region. Thirst and fever from evening to midnight.

Carbo-Vegetabilis - This is also indicated in the malignant form of dysentery.

when arsenicum fails to relieve the patient. symptoms very much like those for arsenicum. The patient has cold breath and cold surface. if the patient's odor does not disappear after using Carbo Veg-China should be tried.

Mercurious Corrosivus - is the chief remedy in most forms of dysentery. It is most indicated in full dysentery when the days are hot and nights cold and when there are small and frequent bloody stools continuing all the time night and day with but little cessation. Constant cutting pain in the bowels

with great urging and tenesmus. The
earlier pain often extends to the back with
chills. Heat. Thirst. - a great anxiety.

Nux Vomica - is very useful in many
forms of dysentery. The indications are
frequent small and bloody mucus dis-
charges with urging and tenesmus
violent - cutting pain in the umbilicus
region. internal heat. great thirst.
bitter or putrid taste in the mouth.

Arnicaeum - is one of the most important
remedies when the disease is Epidemic
and in other forms of the disease. It's
call for when we have great weakness

and irritation from the commencement
starts black, bloody, acrid, putrid and
often involuntary, violent-burning
pain in the abdomen - suffit striking
of the vital energies, pulse small and in-
termittent - coldness of the extremities
cadaverous smelling discharge part
of feces and urine dry chapped black tongue
hiccup and raving thirst with full
sunken countenance - *for violent colic*

Belladonna - is very valuable in these
inflammatory parties when the patient
is of a sanguine temperament full habit-
lively ardent disposition tendency of blood

To the Head. whitish tongue with
the tip slightly red and inclined to be
dry. Paroxysms and colic pains
in the bowels constant urging to
stool and great tenesmus. strong
itching vomiting evening fever with
intense thirst.

~~Catarrh - is very appropriate in
country in Calceynth.~~

Calceynth - is very good for violent colic
pains in the umbilical region followed
with bloody stools mixed with portions
of membranes attended with goutous
pains. distension of the abdomen. relief
from ~~after~~ the rectum -

Plumbum - when there is a violent fever consisting of almost entire bloody discharges with continual cuttings in the bowels and stomach. fever running in the anus during the evacuations and continuation of tenesmus after stool.

Veratrum - is very appropriate in dysentery when we have watery discharges mixed with fevers or dysentery accompanied with vomiting and coldness of the surface. great weakness, and eruptions in the cubies with cold sweat - discharges are more common in the night and followed by colic and chills. tenesmus is not present

Sulphur. is a very valuable remedy in
very bad cases where other remedies will
not owing to chronic disease, control
the disease.

There are many other remedies that are good
in this disease such as Pulsatilla.

Antimonium crudum. Bryonia Dulcam.
ara. Nitre acic. Calcarea.

Sometimes for the comfort of the patient it is
necessary to give sitz baths also in
solutions of starch or the white of an
egg beat up in water.